AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) An electric terminal for an electronic device comprising:

an external electrode;

a lead member disposed on an internal electrode of the electronic device, at least a portion of said lead member being a conductor electrically connecting said external electrode and the internal electrode; and

a support member disposed on the electronic device in the vicinity of said lead member for supporting said external electrode at least upon application of an external thrust force which deforms said lead member.

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2. (Original) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said support member is in contact with said external electrode upon application of no external thrust force.

3. (Original) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said support member is out of contact with said external electrode upon application of no external thrust force.

4. (Currently Amended) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said external electrode comprises an external terminal, and wherein said external terminal includes a solder ball.

5. (Original) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said external terminal includes a core, at least a portion of which is covered by a solder coat.

6. (Original) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said external terminal includes a central core made of at least one conductor material and covered by a solder coat, said conductor material having a melting point higher than a melting point of said solder coat.

7. (Currently Amended) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said external terminal includes a central core made of at least one conductor material and covered by a solder coat, said central core receiving therein an insulator sub-core.

8. (Currently Amended) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said lead member ~~is made of~~ comprises a conductor.

9. (Original) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said lead member includes a conductor body formed by plating.

10. (Original) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said lead member includes a conductor body formed separately from and connected to the electronic device.

11. (Original) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said lead member is formed by etching a metallic film.

12. (Original) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said lead member includes a wire.

13. (Original) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said lead member includes a wire covered by an insulator coat.

14. (Currently Amended) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said lead member includes a conductor bump ~~at least a portion of which is~~ made of solder.

15. (Original) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said lead member includes an insulator body having a through-hole filled with a plating conductor.

16. (Original) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said support member includes an insulator body patterned by a photolithographic technique.

17. (Currently Amended) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said ~~supporting~~ support member includes a resin body formed by a transfer molding technique.

18. (Original) The electric terminal as defined in claim 17, wherein said ~~supporting~~ support member is made by etching said resin body.

19. (Original) The electric terminal as defined in claim 18, wherein said etching includes at least one of laser etching, wet etching and dry etching.

20. (Currently Amended) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said ~~supporting~~

support member includes an insulator body having a through-hole through which said lead member passes.

21. (Currently Amended) The electric terminal as defined in claim 1, wherein said ~~supporting~~ support member is formed by patterning an insulator plate by an etching.

22. (Original) The electric terminal as defined in claim 21, wherein said etching is either laser etching, wet etching or dry etching.

23. (Original) An electronic instrument comprising the electric terminal as defined in claim 1.

24-45 (Canceled)

46. (New) The electric terminal according to claim 1, wherein said support member partially surrounds said lead member to prevent excessive deformation of said lead member.

47. (New) The electric terminal according to claim 1, wherein said lead member for electrically connecting said external electrode is separately disposed from said support member when no external force is applied.

48. (New) The electric terminal according to claim 1, wherein said lead member is substantially parallel to said support member to isolate, electrically, said lead member and said external electrode.

49. (New) The electric terminal according to claim 1, wherein said support member comprises a plurality of insulator poles disposed radially outside said lead member.

50. (New) The electric terminal according to claim 1, wherein said support member is separately disposed from said external electrode.

51. (New) The electric terminal according to claim 1, wherein said support member is made by etching and partially surrounds said lead member.